

Glossary

Abkhazians (ab-KAY-zhee-ahn) Ethnic group located in northwest Georgia. Due to unrest, Russian peacekeepers have maintained a cease-fire in the region since May 1994.

Ajarian (ah-JAHR-ee-ahn) Historically, an autonomous region within Georgia. Many Ajarian peoples currently indistinguishable from Georgians in language and practice.

Anatolia (ah-nah-TOH-lee-ah) Area comprising present day Asian Turkey and parts of northern Iraq/Iran/Syria

Apostles Early followers of Jesus Christ

April 1989 Date of a tragic breakup of a demonstration by Georgians against the government. Up to 20 women and children were killed, causing great public unrest.

April 24 National Day of Remembrance, commemorating the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Turkey

Armenian Apostolic Church Official name of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Armenia. Also known as the Armenian Orthodox or Gregorian Church

Ashot I A Bagratid king who ushered in the second golden age for Armenia, 862-977.

Autocephalous (AH-tah-SEF-ah-lahs) Self-governing nature of national Eastern Orthodox churches. Though in communion with other Orthodox churches, a patriarch's jurisdiction is independent of others.

Babi Yar Ravine in northwest Kiev where Nazis stripped and murdered some 130,000 prisoners during World War II. Many Jewish peoples, along with others, died.

Bagrationi family (bah-grah-tyi-YAHN-ee) A family of rulers in Georgia who led for 1,000 years, beginning with Ashot I in A.D. 813.

Bartholomew and Thaddeus Two apostles whom tradition says were the initial preachers to go to Armenia

Belarus (byay-lah-ROOS, be-lah-ROOS) Official name of the Republic of Belarus

Belorussian The Library of Congress Country Studies--Belarus spells Belarus/Belarusian for early Belarus history, Belorussian/Belorussian while a part of Poland, Russian Empire or Soviet State, and Belarus/Belarusian after independence in 1991.

Brest, Union of 1596 synod where the Uniate Catholic Church was founded.

Byzantine Empire (BIZ-ahn-teen) The eastern Roman Empire @476-1453

Calvin, John One of the Protestant reformers of the 1500s. Presbyterians and Reformed Protestants continue to be influenced by his thought.

Catholicos Honorary title of some Orthodox church leaders, ranking them below a patriarch but above a metropolitan.

Caucasia (kah-KAY-zhah) Mountainous region between the Black and Caspian Seas

CFE Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty. Signed in 1992, this treaty limits and reduces the amount of conventional arms in Europe.

Chagall, Mark (shah-gahl, 1887-1985) Russian/French painter born in Vitebsk. One of the most important of 20th-century artists.

Chernobyl (chahr-NO-bahl) Location of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Fallout extended over much of Europe, though Belarus received the brunt of the pollution.

Chrysostom, John (KRIS-ahs-tahm, @347-407) "Golden mouthed" hermit-monk and famous preacher who was exiled in Georgia, dying near the Black Sea.

Cilicia (sah-LIH-shee-ah) Northeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea

CIS Commonwealth of Independent States. Association of former Soviet States which link together for economic and political activity.

Collectivization Soviet policy of breaking up small farms and gathering all workers into collectives or massive agricultural projects. comprised of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia under Communist rule

Cossacks (KOS-aks) Warrior peoples who rebelled against Polish, Turkish and Russian oversight in the 1600s. Cossacks are known for their love of Orthodoxy, freedom and independence.

CPSU Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Crimea (kri-MEE-ah) Peninsula of Ukraine extending into the Black Sea. Historic battles took place in the region. Its Mediterranean climate is known for tourism and agriculture.

Cyril and Methodius (SIR-ahl, mah-THOH-dee-ahs) Two saints who introduced use of the Cyrillic (suh-RIL-lik) alphabet into Slavic regions.

David the Builder (r. 1027-72) Ruler who initiated the first Golden Age of Georgian culture.

Diaspora Scattering

Dissident One who goes against set policy or government, often at peril of their life.

Dormition Falling asleep. Day honoring the death and burial of the Virgin Mary.

Dvoeverie (dvoh-yeh-vyer-EE-yeh) Popular Slavic religion, often a mixture of pagan beliefs and practices preserved under a veneer of Christianity.

Echmiadzin (ech-mee-ah-DZEEN) Located west of Erevan, this is the holy city of Armenian Apostolic practice

Euphrosyne, St. (@1120-1173) This granddaughter of one of Valdimir's distant grandsons became a nun. Originally called Pradslava, her efforts founding monasteries, schools and libraries left a lasting legacy.

Exarchate Title in the Orthodox Church of a bishop who ranks below a patriarch but above a metropolitan.

Fidain Armenian freedom party, taken from Arabic term meaning "one who sacrifices himself."

Freedom Support Act Cornerstone agreement between the United States, Ukraine and other New Independent States is the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets (FREEDOM) Support Act. Passed in 1993 by Congress, this act provides some \$2.45 billion for political, economic and humanitarian needs.

G-7 Group of Seven, an organization of the seven major democracies who meet together periodically to discuss and assist in world events.

Galicia (gah-LIH-shee-ah) Region of western Ukraine which is a source of rich nationalist sentiment. Throughout history it often enjoyed more permissive rule than other parts of the country.

Gamsakhurdia, Zviad President of Georgia in 1990, strong anti-Communist, but intolerant of any opposition. He died in Jan 1994 in an apparent suicide.

Genghis Khan (GENG-gah-SKAHN) Leader of the Mongol invaders in the 1200s.

Glasnost Gorbachev policy of openness and permission for public discussion within the Soviet Union, 1984-89

Gorbachev, Mikhail (GOHR-buh-chof) Leader of the Communist party in Russia, 1985-91 who initiated the policies of glasnost and perestroika

Grapevine cross Tradition has it that St. Nino received a grapevine cross from Mary, the mother of Christ. St. Nino used it in her travels to Georgia. This cross is now a symbol of Georgian Christianity.

Gregory, Saint Known as the Illuminator, this saint introduced Christianity into Armenia in the 300s, following a series of miracles.

Hagia Sophia (high-EE-ah) The Church of Divine Wisdom in Constantinople. Built by Justinian in the 500s, this was the largest and most splendid Christian religious structure of its time. For many centuries it was the home church of the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople.

Herekle II Georgian ruler who united the east Georgian regions in 1762. He sought Russian aid to rule the region.

Iaroslav the Wise (yuh-ruh-SLUHF, ruled from 1036-1054) One of Vladimir's 12 sons who contributed greatly to the development of Ukraine. Schools, libraries, translations of Greek classics, and trade schools flourished under his leadership. The first legal code, combining Slavic custom and Roman law, also came into being under his rule.

Ilia II, Patriarch Current head of the Georgian Orthodox Church

IMET International Military Education and Training Program. This educational initiative links U.S. military officers and counterparts in the New Independent States.

JCTP Joint Contact Team Program. A full-time military liaison team program where four U.S. military personnel coordinate actions with one of the 14 PfP countries.

Jesuits Roman Catholic religious order which led in reforms following the 1560s. Mission service, education and publication were their strengths.

Kalinowski, Kastus (1838-64) Called by many the father of Belorussian nationalism, he led a failed insurrection against Russia in 1863.

Khmelnitski, Borden (kmyel-NYIT-skee, c. 1595-1657) Cossack leader who led establishment of an autonomous Cossack state in what is now eastern Ukraine.

Khrushchev, Nikita (kroosh-CHOF) Leader of Communist party in Russia after Stalin, 1955-1964

Kupalo Festival A summertime festival in Ukraine honoring vegetation, love and life.

Kurapaty Forest in the suburbs of Minsk where 500 mass graves or up to 300,000 Belarusians were killed under Stalin between 1937-41. The graves were discovered in 1988.

L'viv (lah-VEEF) City some 300 miles west of Kiev, an important center for the Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate) Church.

Lustration Practice where former authoritarian rulers (Communists) are able to hold office in new, more democratic governments of the former Soviet block countries

Luther, Martin One of the Protestant reformers of the 1500s. Lutherans continue to be influenced by his thought.

Meskhethian Turks Ethnic group forcibly exiled from southern Georgia to Uzbekistan by Stalin during World War II. Many seek to return to Georgia.

Mesrop, Saint (mes-ROHP) Also known as Mashtots (mash-TOHTS), this early religious figure devised an alphabet for the Armenian peoples.

Metropolitan Overseer of the mother church in the chief city within a region, or sections of the national church.

Monastery of the Caves Monastic community founded by saints Anthony and Theodius in 1015. The monastery became a center of Kievan cultural life.

Mongols Nomad invaders from central Asia who conquered much of Kievan Rus in the mid 1200s.

Monophysite (mah-NOF-i-sit) Belief which centers around the exact nature of Jesus Christ. Maintains that Christ has one nature, part divine and part human.

Mumming Wearing of masks and costumes around Christmastime as part of festivities.

Nagorno-Karabakh (nah-GAHR-nah KAHR-ah-bahk) Self-governing region of Azerbaijan where nearly 200,000 Armenians live within the confines of Azerbaijani rule, isolated from mainstream Armenian culture

New Economic Policy Lenin's economic plans of 1921-28. In this temporary compromise with capitalism, some economic recovery occurred.

Nikhichevan (nah-chee-chi-VAHN) Azerbaijan enclave separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by Armenia

Nino, St. According to tradition, this holy slave woman cured leaders of historic Georgia of illness. She was instrumental in bringing Christianity to Georgia in the early 300s (A.D.)

Non-native Religions Restriction Act A 1993 amendment to Ukraine's Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religion which restricts religious activities of non-native (outside of Ukraine) religious organizations.

Olga Mother of Vladimir, the first famous woman/saint in Russian/Ukrainian history.

Ossetians (ah-SEE-shah-ahn) Ethnic peoples comprising a small self-governing region within Georgia.

Parthians (PAHR-thee-ahn) Central Asian enemies of Armenia from 30 B.C. to 200 A.D.

Patriarch Chief leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church in a given country or nation state.

Pax Mongolica Era of relative peace and stability in parts of Ukraine while under Mongol rule in the 1200s and 1300s.

Perestroika Gorbachev policy of restructuring in the Soviet Union, whereby economic, social and political revitalization would take place in the Communist system, 1984-89

PfP (Partnership for Peace) A NATO initiated program which seeks to build improved ties with former Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS. A variety of partnership activities currently take place.

Pogrom (pah-GRUM) Organized massacres

Polatsk (PAH-lahtsk) Historically, one of the largest and most influential of the early Belarusian territories. Prince Rahvalod ruled the region.

Polonize The forced acculturation of Polish ways upon the peoples of Belarus.

Queen Tamar (TAHM-ahr, 1184-1212) Ruler of Georgia in the Golden Age who inspired a great literary output.

Rahnieda, Princess (d. @1000) Daughter of Prince Rahvalod, Princess Rahnieda eventually became a nun after marriage to Vladimir. Rahnieda (also called Anastasia) still captures the imaginations of many Belarusian peoples.

Riga, Treaty of (1921) Division of Belorussia into a western portion (absorbed into Poland), central region (Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and eastern portion (becoming part of Russia).

Rurik (ROOR-ik) Leader of the Viking Varangians who, in the 800s, consolidated Slavic settlements in the Kiev region. His lineage continued for some 700 years.

Russification The forced acculturation of Russian ways upon the peoples of Belarus.

Seljuk (sel-JOOK) Turkish dynasties of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries

Sevastopol (sah-VAS-tah-pohl) Seaport city in southwest Crimea, often held by Russia. In May 1997, a treaty of friendship between Russia and Ukraine settled oversight of the city with Ukraine.

Sheptytsky, Metropolitan "Grand Old Man" of the Ukrainian Catholic (Greek) Church (Uniate). Active in the early to mid 1900s, his leadership extended to many parts of Ukrainian culture.

Shevardnadze, Eduard Communist party first secretary who began oversight of Georgia in 1972. He initiated experiments which foreshadowed economic and political reforms of glasnost and perestroika. Current president of Georgia.

Skaryna, Francisak (@1490-1552) Doctor of medicine who translated the Bible into the Belarusian language.

SPP State Partnership Program. National Guard Bureau initiative which matches one of the former Communist nations with a National Guard state in the U.S.

Stalin, Joseph (Ioseb Jugashvili) Georgian who lead the Bolsheviks and eventually ruled Russia for over 25 years.

START Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty protocol signed by the U.S. with Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan in May 1992. Reduction of nuclear weapons, over a seven year period, is the goal.

Tbilisi (tah-bi-LEE-see) Capital city of great historical

Theotokos "God-bearer." Term honoring the Virgin Mary as the bearer of the Christ.

Tigran the Great (r. 95-55 B.C.) Also known as Tigranes (ti-GRAY-neeze) this ruler of ancient Armenia oversaw the largest and most influential development of the country in its early history.

Timur (tee-MOOR) Turkish conqueror who destroyed Tbilisi in 1386

TSFSR Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and Ukrainian Orthodox Church--Moscow Patriarchate.

Ukrainian Orthodox Church An autocephalous, self-governing church which became official in 1920. Suppressed during the Soviet era, formal reconstitution came in 1989.

Ukrainian Orthodox Church--Kiev Patriarchate Orthodox church arising in part (in 1992) from struggles within the

Ukrainian Orthodox Church--Moscow Patriarchate Branch of the Russian Orthodox Church, maintained under centralized control from Moscow, with an appointed metropolitan in Kiev.

Ukrainian SSR Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the name of Ukraine while under Soviet rule.

Uniate Catholic Church (YOO-nee-at) Church formed at the Union of Brest. Also called the Ukrainian Catholic (Greek) Church, this body originated with the Union of Brest (1596). Beliefs include paying full allegiance to the pope in Rome while maintaining Eastern Orthodox liturgy, practice and ceremony.

Union of Brest Church council which established the Uniate Church in 1596. This Ukrainian Catholic Church recognized papal leadership from Rome but continued Eastern Orthodox ritual, practice and custom.

USIA U.S. Information Agency which brings Ukrainian peoples to America on exchange programs.

Varangians (vah-RAN-jee-ahns) Viking warrior traders who in the 800s accepted an invitation from the peoples of the Kiev region to rule their area.

Vartanants National holiday celebrating the fifth-century defense of Christianity against the Persians

Vladimir I (vlah-DEE-mir, @956-1015) Great-grandson of Rurik who ruled Kiev from 980-1015. After an early riotous life, this prince converted to Orthodoxy. Under Vladimir's leadership, Eastern Orthodox Christianity became the official religion of the region.

Pronunciation Key

(Adapted from HarperCollins Dictionary of World Religions, ed. Jonathan Smith, [New York: HarperCollins, 1995], p. xxvi.)

Symbol	Sound	Symbol	Sound
a	cat	ng	sing
ah	father	o	hot
ahr	lard	oh	go
air	care	oi	boy
aw	jaw	oo	foot
ay	pay	oo	boot
b	bug	oor	poor
ch	chew	or	for
d	do	ou	how
e, eh	pet	p	pat
ee	seem	r	run
f	fun	s	so
g	good	sh	sure
h	hot	t	toe
hw	whether	th	thin
i	it	th	then
i	sky	ts	tsetse
ihr	ear	tw	twin
j	joke	uh	ago
k	king	uhr	her
kh	ch as in German Buch	v	vow
ks	vex	w	weather
kw	quill	y	young
l	love	z	zone
m	mat	zh	vision
n	not		